

"Community Legal Outreach Project" (CLOP)
Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC)

GRANT AMOUNT: \$19,800

PROJECT SUMMARY: Through this project, LAC seeks to inform local community residents of their legal rights and to equip villagers with the legal knowledge necessary for them to resolve their disputes with each other and with the government. This program is to be implemented in eight different provinces where LAC maintains branch offices: Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kandal, Koh Kong, Siem Reap, Sihanouk Ville, Ratanakiri, and Banteay Meanchey.

During the project, LAC intends to reach out to 20 communes and 5 high schools in each of the above provinces. In each commune and school, two "Street Law" sessions will be provided during the course of the project. During the Street Law sessions, LAC lawyers, legal assistants and investigators will meet with villagers to discuss their legal concerns. All villagers are welcome to attend the program. LAC estimates that approximately 40-60 people, most of whom are women, will attend each session. LAC lawyers will respond to the villagers' inquiries on both criminal and civil matters. It is expected that the majority of the questions will concern land rights, family issues, domestic violence and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal. The second visit will be a follow-up action to the first session. Throughout the program there will be 320 total Street Law sessions at the communes and 80 sessions at the high schools.

In addition to the Street Law discussions, LAC will provide the participants with legal documents that the villagers can keep for reference. LAC also plans to print 2,000 copies of its quarterly legal bulletins for distribution during the Street Law sessions.

GRANTEE BACKGROUND:

Legal Aid of Cambodia (LAC) was founded by a group of legal defenders and lawyers in 1995 with a grant from Novib, which has been a major donor throughout LAC's history. LAC is a non-profit, non-governmental, Khmer-administered, Cambodian human rights-based legal organization that provides legal assistance to the poor. The organization

has been recognized by the King, the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

Currently it has 8 offices throughout Cambodia through which most of the country's 24 provinces are covered. LAC has a total of 59 Cambodian employees. LAC has a Supervisory Board consisting of local and international members. LAC's main focus is to provide free legal representation to Cambodia's poor. LAC is also involved in other significant activities such as advocacy of legal and judicial reforms through technical advice and recommendations, increasing legal awareness, and dissemination of the laws through radio and television.